Pat Rabbitte ...it says in the papers

He has been relentless in his attacks on Government inertia on the unemployment crisis.
Sunday Business Post

Widely regarded as the best deputy in the house.
Irish Independent

Range and depth of knowledge on a whole variety of topics
Sunday Tribune

A puckish sense of humour which helps him score direct hits on political opponents.
Sunday Press

Pat Rabbitte again showed that he is the top performer in the Chamber
Irish Times

!#**@!¡
Albert Reynolds

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Vote Number 1 on June 9th

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Straight talking for...

- An end to the bias against Dublin
- A Common Industrial Policy for Jobs
- Resources for taxpayers, consumers and the unemployed - not big farmers
- Social Europe to protect workers' and women's rights - not the law of the jungle
- A common security policy - not a European Army
- Closure of Sellafield - no European funds for THORP
- European action on drugs - not a single market for drug pushers.

Litir um Thoghchán

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JT 28684

European Parliament Elections

RABBITTE'S EURO-VISION

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

From the distance of Europe's mainland we think of Dublin as an intimate, literary and literate city. The town of Wilde, of Joyce and classical Georgian squares. Not today's Dublin, and certainly not the city of its most attractive European Parliament elections candidate, Pat Rabbitte.

Rabbitte: "Dublin hasn't got its fair share of European funding for jobs"

Ireland's capital city today belongs, not to Wilde or Joyce but to another writer, Roddy Doyle, and his hustling, street-wise urban working-class characters. Chief among his fictional, real-world characters is Jimmy Rabbitte.

Doyle's is a sprawling European metropolitan region of well over a million inhabitants. Wilde and Joyce would hardly recognise contemporary Dublin with its inner-city wastelands and creaking infrastructure, its vast satellite towns on its western edge, and Euro-financed outer ringways and motorway links.

Dublin is the electoral powerbase of, another Rabbitte, Pat. A socialist politician, he cut his political teeth in seventies student politics in Galway University in the west of Ireland. Rabbitte now is the recognised debating star of the Irish parliament's lower house, the Dail. He represents the vast Dublin satellite cities of Tallaght and Clondalkin in the Dail. They say Doyle named his central character after the forty-four year old parliamentarian.

Rabbitte has his sights on winning a Dublin seat in the forthcoming European Parliament elections. The city constitutes a single consitutency that will return four Members to the 567 seat Parliament.

If elected, Rabbitte will sit in a newly powerful chamber. It has had its powers considerably enhanced by the Maastricht Treaty. He will also, represent a European city of contrasts, of suburban charm and affluence and unemployment-blighted workingclass housing estates; home to an international financial services sector and much urban decay. There are, Rabbitte says, 36,000 fewer industrial jobs in Dublin today than t here were twenty years ago. There are nearly 100,000 people out of work.

Dublin does have a jobs crisis A recent survey by its Chamber of Commerce showed the metropolitan region to have far the most serious unemployment problem in the Republic - more than half the country's unemployed live in the greater Dublin area.

Rabbitte wants a better deal for Dublin. "Dublin has lost out badly since we joined the Community. It hasn't got its fair share of funding - over half of EU transfers have gone to a mere three per cent of the population, the nation's richest farmers" he claims.

So he wants a common European industrial policy, paralleling the CAP. In this he's a keen supporter of Jacques Delors' White Paper plan to improve European industrial competitiveness in the context of increasingly free world trade.

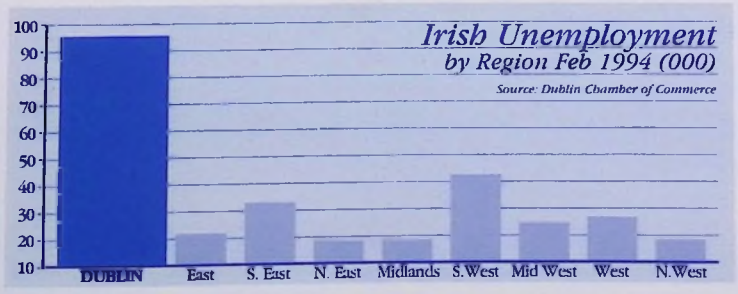
Rabbitte thoroughly supports the Delors vision of a European economy committed to advanced, high-tech and knowledge intensive industry. He wants more of the increased Euro-funding for Dublin's infrastructure and public transport. He wants a science park to help revitalise its industrial base. He wants Dublin "back on its feet."

Rabbitte, like many European socialists, accepts the Eighties defeat of socialist dogma. He recognises the need for markets and competitive economics. But, like most European politicians he believes in the social market. He even quotes the conservative French prime minister, Edouard Balladur, from a recent Financial Times interview: "What is the law of the market? It is the law of the jungle..." Not for Rabbitte the freebooting laisez faire policies of the British. In this he is very much in the European mainstream.

That British agenda seeks, he says, to overturn much of the progressive legislation - ranging from workers' and womens' rights to the environment. "It is an agenda that would put both living standards and jobs at risk."

On the question of environmental policy Rabbitte reflects what many Dubliners feel. He strongly opposed the re-zoning of Dublin's Green Belt.. And he sees the potential of Europe in constraining another aspect of British policy that worries every Dubliner, the commitment to Sellafield, a "nuclear dustbin on our doorstep" as he puts it.

The Dublin socialist also raises his vision above local and national agendas. He insists on discussing the European Union's wider role in the world. Coming, like most Irish politicians, from a position of supporting neutrality he wants that now fashioned into an active, positive force for peace. He doesn't see the EU as a military superpower," I want a common security policy, not a European army". Thursday, June 9 will decide whether the formidable Rabbitte goes to Europe, whether the next European Parliament, the first to take full advantage of the institution's additional powers, will see Rabbitte's parliamentary skills and wit function in an international setting. My taxi-driver was in no doubt about his choice, "Rabbitte is Dublin's best hope in Europe" ■



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